Office of the Premier

2017/18 – 2019/20
SERVICE PLAN

February 2017

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Premier
Accountability Statement

The *Office of the Premier 2017/18 – 2019/20 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction, in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

Honourable Christy Clark
Premier
February 3, 2017

Table of Contents

Premier Accountability Statement **3**

Purpose of the Office of the Premier **5**

Strategic Direction and Context **6**

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures 7

Resource Summary **12**

Appendices **13**

Appendix A: Premier's Office Contact Information 13

Appendix B: Hyperlink to Additional Information 13

Purpose of the Office of the Premier

The Premier serves as the President of the Executive Council (Cabinet) of the Government of British Columbia. The Office of the Premier assists the Premier in overseeing and leading the government as a whole. In addition, it supports the Cabinet decision-making process. As a central agency, the Office facilitates effective policy coordination across the public service and ensures a strategic and corporate level approach is undertaken on the development and implementation of key priorities. The Premier is advised by the Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Public Service on matters of public policy, and management and operational issues.

The Office:

- Articulates government's goals, commitments and priorities through ministry mandate letters, and works with ministries and Crown agencies to ensure communication of those goals, commitments and priorities and to track and monitor their implementation;

- Leads the public service and, with the Deputy Ministers' Council, commits to being a top employer that maintains and enhances public trust and confidence in our work, as set out in the new Corporate Plan *Where Ideas Work* and reflected in the focus on innovation and integrity;

- Provides support for the operations and decision-making processes of Cabinet and its committees; and

- Works directly with the federal government and with all ministries and Crown agencies to ensure that relations with the federal, provincial, territorial and international governments advance British Columbia's interests.

Strategic Direction and Context

Led by the Office of the Premier, this government's strategic objective is simple: put British Columbians first. That starts with continuing to grow Canada's leading economy, creating opportunities for communities across the province, and also gives government the ability to make significant investments in infrastructure, key services such as education and transportation, and programs that lift people up.

Steadfastly committed to protecting taxpayers and ensuring the sustainability of quality public services, this government will continue to control spending, balance the budget, and ensure that programs and services operate with maximum impact and minimum waste – supported by the efforts of dedicated public servants across B.C. Our commitment to cost consciousness and accountability is also reflected in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles for all public entities.

This government will continue to protect and create jobs by creating an environment where people and businesses can succeed. That means continuing to build on the success of the B.C. Jobs Plan, strengthening our trade relationships with key markets in Asia-Pacific and around the world, and working to support success in key sectors of our economy. With economic uncertainty continuing to present problems in our country and trading partners, it's more important than ever to stay the course.

This government will continue to implement the Skills for Jobs Blueprint, to ensure that British Columbians are trained and ready for new and in-demand jobs in every sector of B.C.'s growing, diverse economy.

Recognizing that British Columbia works best when we work together, the Office of the Premier will spearhead the continued development of stronger relationships with business, labour, First Nations, and other levels of government.

With an increasing and ageing population, the demand on public services and infrastructure British Columbians depend on will continue to rise. A growing economy is vital to expand services, and make investments for the future. The Office of the Premier will continue to work with Ministers and their staff to ensure the achievement of the objectives in their mandate letters.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

Goal 1: Government's priorities are implemented

Objective 1.1: Ministries and Crown Agency activities are integrated and aligned with government's priorities

Strategies

- Lead and support the Executive Council in the successful development and implementation of the Government Strategic Plan.
- Clearly articulate priorities of government in the Strategic Plan and assist all ministries to develop strategies to achieve the goals and priorities established in the Strategic Plan.
- Administer government's accountability framework by supporting ministries and Crown agencies in developing service plans and annual service plan reports to ensure they advance Government's Strategic Plan.
- Guide the successful delivery of ministry and Crown agency mandates by providing direction and resolving issues requiring senior government input.
- Address priority issues on behalf of Executive Council and manage issues that arise in the delivery of programs and services.

Performance Measure 1: Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers

Performance Measure	Benchmark	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Performance targets in place for Deputy Ministers and Associate Deputy Ministers.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: BC Public Service Agency

Discussion

Within government's accountability framework there are strategies in place for all government staff, from front line workers to Deputy Ministers. The Office of the Premier is administratively responsible for the performance targets that are in place for Deputy Ministers.

There are multiple interlinking layers to government's accountability framework. The Government Strategic Plan sets out the overall priorities and goals that illustrate the Province's vision for the future. Ministry service plans have goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures with targets to accomplish those goals for the upcoming three-year period. These plans are tabled in the legislature with the budget in February of each year. In June, government, ministries and Crown agencies report on their achievements of the previous fiscal year in their service plan annual report.

Goal 2: The public service is well positioned to deliver government programs for British Columbians

Objective 2.1: B.C. Public Service Corporate Initiatives' goals are realized

Strategies

- Continue to develop corporate initiatives for the B.C. Public Service.
- Continue to improve the employee experience in the B.C. Public Service to help us better serve the people of B.C. by advancing the goals set out in the new Corporate Plan *Where Ideas Work*.

Performance Measure 2: B.C. Public Service is recognized as a top employer

Performance Measure	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
B.C. Public Service is recognized as a top employer in British Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Data Source: B.C. Public Service Agency

Discussion

In 2016, *Where Ideas Work* was published ten years after the initial Corporate Human Resource Plan was developed by the Deputy Ministers' Council. The Council is committed to achieving the status of the B.C. Government as a top employer through ongoing implementation of the corporate initiatives contained in the Plan with the involvement of the B.C. Public Service. Recent recognitions for the B.C. Public Service include: Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2017; B.C.'s Top Employers for 2016; Canada's Greenest Employers for 2016 and Top Employers for Canadians over 40 for 2016.

Goal 3: Cabinet and Cabinet Committees are able to make timely and well-informed decisions

Objective 3.1: Cabinet and its Committees are supported with timely and effective advice

Strategies

- Support Cabinet and its Committees by ensuring timeliness, and appropriate advice on key policy, program and legislative initiatives, which align with government priorities, including an ability to measure the success of the initiatives.
- Effectively provide necessary and appropriate logistical support for the operations and decision-making process of Cabinet and its Committees.
- Continue to use technologies and tools to improve efficiencies in the logistical support of Cabinet and its Committees.

Performance Measure 3: Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans

Performance Measure	2006/07 Benchmark	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Cabinet receives timely advice on all key public policy recommendations and plans	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: Cabinet Operations

Discussion

All major policies, programs and initiatives are reviewed by Cabinet or a Cabinet committee to ensure alignment with government strategic priorities. There are currently nine Cabinet committees and Cabinet working groups, each making recommendations to Cabinet on specific programs and initiatives within their respective mandates. For example, the Environment and Land Use Committee reviews issues affecting the province's land base and ensures that both economic and environmental considerations are balanced.

Cabinet committees and ministries provide prompt and effective advice enabling timely and well-informed Cabinet decisions benefitting British Columbians.

Goal 4: Government is successful in achieving its intergovernmental relations objectives

Objective 4.1: British Columbia's priorities are advanced through leadership in intergovernmental, bilateral and multilateral partnerships and international relations

Strategies

- Engage the federal government in achieving B.C. priorities.
- Strengthen partnerships with other provinces through bilateral and multilateral co-operation on shared priorities discussed at the Council of the Federation, Western Premiers' Conference and other Premiers' meetings.
- Positively influence the policies and programs of other governments that affect the interests of British Columbia through enhanced economic, cultural and diplomatic ties, programs and advocacy.
- Maintain regional leadership and establish shared economic and environmental priorities through the Pacific Coast Collaborative, British Columbia's participation in the Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) and other opportunities as they arise.

Performance Measure 4: Progress on Intergovernmental Relations key issues

Performance Measure	Benchmark	2016/17 Forecast	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target	2019/20 Target
Progress on key objectives in Intergovernmental Relations Plan	Progress on key objectives	Progress achieved on key objectives	Progress on key objectives	Progress on key objectives	Progress on key objectives

Data Source: Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat

Discussion

Each year, the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat updates its plan with key objectives and major projects, which typically take more than one fiscal year to measure progress. For 2016/17 progress was made on all new initiatives.

The key objectives identified in the intergovernmental plan for 2017/18 are:

- Increase government-to-government engagement at senior levels within the Canadian federation and with the United States and other priority countries, including sustained relationships with members of the B.C. Consular Corps, which represents more than 80 countries.

- Ensure B.C.'s priorities, including protecting and enhancing the B.C.-U.S. economic relationship, are advanced in the United States via sustained and targeted advocacy to key decision makers at the federal and state level.
- Promote constructive, focused engagement with the federal government on B.C. priorities such as softwood lumber, trade (including export-related Pacific Gateway infrastructure), health care, and immigration.
- Engage and participate in initiatives with provinces and territories through the Council of the Federation, Western Premiers' Conferences and other intergovernmental forums.
- Advance bilateral collaboration, focusing on jobs and economic growth, with other provinces, territories and states through joint meetings of leaders, cabinet and/or senior officials and other initiatives.
- Engage with other governments and private sector members of PNWER to promote actions in support of keeping the Canada-U.S. border open for legitimate trade, investment and tourism and building regional consensus and understanding on actions that increase economic opportunities for B.C. families in areas such as sustainable resource management and softwood lumber trade.
- Leverage the shared goals and objectives of the Pacific Coast Collaborative set out in British Columbia's agreements with the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, including implementing the regional jobs strategy and the action plan on climate and clean energy.
- Work across government, with B.C. stakeholders, with the federal government, and U.S. federal and state agencies to facilitate the management of transboundary environmental and resource management concerns consistent with the Province's high environmental standards.
- Support the government's international engagement activities by providing policy direction, advice and support with respect to international government-to-government relations, including outgoing missions.
- Liaise with foreign government representatives (e.g. B.C. Consular Corps) in moments of crisis and/or domestic emergencies.
- Plan, conduct and support visits to British Columbia of heads of state, heads of government, dignitaries, diplomats and other government representatives, including managing visits of members of Canada's Royal Family.
- Plan and conduct Premier, Minister and staff-led missions to the U.S. targeting key government decision makers.
- Provide protocol and ceremonial advice to B.C. government stakeholders and the general public.
- Provide advice to ministries on development of memoranda of understanding and other government to government agreements.
- Support citizen engagement through the Order of British Columbia, Medal of Good Citizenship, Congratulatory Messages Program, and ceremonies.
- Implement the current Canada-British Columbia Official Languages Agreement on French Language Services and negotiate a new official languages agreement with the federal government.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2016/17 Restated Estimates[1,2]	2017/18 Estimates[2,3]	2018/19 Plan[2,3]	2019/20 Plan[3]
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	2,453	2,456	2,471	2,471
Executive and Support Services.....	6,545	6,555	6,584	6,584
Office of the Premier.....	3,033	3,039	3,055	3,055
Executive Operations.....	3,512	3,516	3,529	3,529
Total	8,998	9,011	9,055	9,055
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat	0	0	0	0
Executive and Support Services.....	1	1	1	1
Office of the Premier.....	0	0	0	0
Executive Operations.....	1	1	1	1
Total	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**

[1] For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2016/17 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2017/18 Estimates.

[2] Includes negotiated increases of 0.5% effective April 2017, 1.0% effective February 2018, 0.5% effective April 2018, and 1.0% effective February 2019 under the Economic Stability Mandate.

[3] Benefits increase from 24.3% in 16/17 to 24.34% for 17/18. Benefits are estimated to increase to 24.8% in 18/19 and 19/20.

*Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates."

Appendices

Appendix A: Premier's Office Contact Information

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Appendix B: Hyperlink to Additional Information

Office of the Premier: www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/ministries/office-of-the-premier/